

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously amended): Steering cylinder structure movable in a forward direction over material, comprising:

- a frame;
- a cylinder having a movable first rod;
- cylinder support structure supporting the cylinder from the frame in a location wherein the cylinder will contact the material as the frame moves over the material;
- a retainer connected to the first rod and rotatable with respect to the rod; and
- a shield connected to retainer for movement with the rod so that the rod remains protected from the material as the first rod is moved, the retainer rotating with respect to the rod to limit torque transmission between the shield and the first rod.

Claim 2 (previously amended): The cylinder structure set forth in claim 1 including a shield support connected to the frame maintaining the shield in a rod-protecting position.

Claim 3 (previously amended): Steering cylinder structure movable in a forward direction over material, comprising:

- a frame;
- a cylinder having a movable first rod;
- cylinder support structure supporting the cylinder from the frame in a location wherein the cylinder will contact the material as the frame moves over the material;
- a shield connected to the first rod for movement with the rod so that the rod remains protected from the material as the first rod is moved; and
- including a roller support connected between the shield and the frame and supporting the shield from the frame for movement relative to the frame with the rod.

Claim 4 (original): The cylinder structure as set forth in claim 1 wherein the cylinder comprises a steering cylinder connected to steerable wheels, and the shield

moves with the rod to avoid contact with the steerable wheels during turning of the implement.

Claim 5 (original): The cylinder structure as set forth in claim 4 wherein the steering cylinder is supported rearwardly of the shield.

Claim 6 (previously amended): The cylinder structure as set forth in claim 4 wherein the steering cylinder comprises a single cylinder and also includes a second rod opposite the first rod, and wherein the shield is connected between the first and second rods for movement with the first and second rods to protect the first and second rods over substantially all of a steering range of the steerable wheels while avoiding contact with the steerable wheels over the steering range.

Claim 7 (original): The cylinder structure as set forth in claim 6 further including a shield support fixed to the frame, and wherein the shield is carried on the shield support.

Claim 8 (previously amended): Steering cylinder structure movable in a forward direction over material, comprising:

- a frame;
- a cylinder having a movable first rod;
- cylinder support structure supporting the cylinder from the frame in a location wherein the cylinder will contact the material as the frame moves over the material;
- a shield connected to retainer for movement with the rod so that the rod remains protected from the material as the first rod is moved;
- wherein the cylinder comprises a steering cylinder connected to steerable wheels, and the shield moves with the rod to avoid contact with the steerable wheels during turning of the implement;
- wherein the steering cylinder also includes a second rod opposite the first rod, and wherein the shield is connected between the first and second rods for movement with the first and second rods to protect the first and second rods over substantially all of a steering range of the steerable wheels while avoiding contact with the steerable wheels over the steering range;

further including a shield support fixed to the frame, and wherein the shield is carried on the shield support; and

wherein the shield support includes rollers and the shield includes a portion supported on the rollers.

Claim 9 (previously amended) Steering cylinder structure movable in a forward direction over material, comprising:

a frame;

a cylinder having a movable first rod;

cylinder support structure supporting the cylinder from the frame in a location wherein the cylinder will contact the material as the frame moves over the material;

a shield connected to retainer for movement with the rod so that the rod remains protected from the material as the first rod is moved;

wherein the cylinder comprises a steering cylinder connected to steerable wheels, and the shield moves with the rod to avoid contact with the steerable wheels during turning of the implement:

wherein the steering cylinder also includes a second rod opposite the first rod, and wherein the shield is connected between the first and second rods for movement with the first and second rods to protect the first and second rods over substantially all of a steering range of the steerable wheels while avoiding contact with the steerable wheels over the steering range;

further including a shield support fixed to the frame, and wherein the shield is carried on the shield support; and

wherein the shield is movable between a mounted position on the shield support and a release position for removal from the shield support, and structure selectively preventing movement of the shield from the mounted position during forward movement of the frame over the material.

Claim 10 (original): The cylinder structure as set forth in claim 1 including means for movably supporting the shield from the frame to facilitate lateral movement of the shield while limiting torque transmission between the rod and the shield.

Claim 11 (previously amended): Steering structure movable in a forward direction over material, comprising:

- a frame movable over the material;
- a steering cylinder having a movable rod structure;
- a cylinder support supporting the cylinder from the frame in a location wherein the cylinder will contact the material as the frame moves over the material;
- a wheel assembly supported from the frame and connected to the steering cylinder, the wheel assembly movable over a range of steered positions by the steering cylinder;
- a shield supported by the frame structure adjacent the steering cylinder;
- wherein the shield is movable in response to movement of the wheel assembly by the steering cylinder to provide protection of the cylinder and rod structure substantially over the range of steered positions; and
- including means constraining the shield for lateral movement with the shield structure while facilitating relative rotation between the rod structure and the shield.

Claim 12 (previously amended): The steering structure as set forth in claim 11 wherein the steering cylinder is located forwardly of the implement frame structure and the shield is located forwardly of the steering cylinder.

Claim 13 (previously amended): Steering structure movable in a forward direction over material, comprising:

- a frame movable over the material;
- a steering cylinder having a movable rod structure;
- a cylinder support supporting the cylinder from the frame in a location wherein the cylinder will contact the material as the implement moves over the material;
- a wheel assembly supported from the frame and connected to the steering cylinder, the wheel assembly movable over a range of steered positions by the steering cylinder;
- a shield supported by the frame structure adjacent the steering cylinder;
- wherein the shield is movable in response to movement of the wheel assembly by the steering cylinder to provide protection of the cylinder and rod structure substantially over the range of steered positions; and.

including a shield support connected to the frame structure and including rollers supporting the shield.

Claim 14 (original): The steering structure as set forth in claim 11 wherein the shield is connected to the rod structure.

Claim 15 (previously amended): Steering structure movable in a forward direction over material, comprising:

- a frame movable over the material;
- a steering cylinder having a movable rod structure;
- a cylinder support supporting the cylinder from the frame in a location wherein the cylinder will contact the material as the frame moves over the material;
- a wheel assembly supported from the frame and connected to the steering cylinder, the wheel assembly movable over a range of steered positions by the steering cylinder;
- a shield supported by the frame structure adjacent the steering cylinder; wherein the shield is movable in response to movement of the wheel assembly by the steering cylinder to provide protection of the cylinder and rod structure substantially over the range of steered positions;
- wherein the shield is connected to the rod structure; and
- including a bracket rotatably received over the rod structure and connected to the shield to constrain the shield for lateral movement with the shield structure while facilitating relative rotation between the rod structure and the shield.

Claim 16 (original): The steering structure as set forth in claim 11 wherein the rod structure includes first and second rods extending from opposite ends of a cylinder barrel, and wherein the shield is connected to outermost ends of the rod structure.

Claim 17 (previously amended): The steering structure as set forth in claim 16 further including low friction guide structure connected to the frame structure and maintaining the shield in a protective attitude as the shield moves with the rod structure.

Claim 18 (currently amended): Steering structure movable in a forward direction over material, comprising:

- an axle frame;
- a single steering cylinder having a barrel and movable cylinder rods extending from opposite ends of the barrel;
- a cylinder support connected to the frame and supporting the cylinder from the axle frame;
- first and second wheel assemblies supported from the axle frame and steering linkages connected to outermost ends of the rods having a rod end spacing, the wheel assemblies movable over a range of steered positions by the steering cylinder;
- a shield supported from the frame adjacent the steering cylinder; and
- wherein the shield comprises a channel shaped member opening towards the steering cylinder and including ~~includes~~ a protective wall having a length approximately equal to the rod end spacing, wherein the shield is movable in response to movement of the wheel assembly by the steering cylinder ~~to provide protection of~~ in protective alignment with both the cylinder barrel and the rods substantially over the range of steered positions.

Claim 19 (previously amended): The steering structure as set forth in claim 18 wherein the cylinder support supports the cylinder forwardly of the axle frame and the shield is supported forwardly adjacent the cylinder so that the cylinder and the rods are protected from the material over substantially the entire range of steered positions.

Claim 20 (previously amended): The steering structure as set forth in claim 18 including a shield support connected to the axle frame, an anti-friction support carried by the shield support and supporting the shield for lateral movement in a cylinder-protecting orientation, and structure connecting the rods to the shield to move the shield laterally with operation of the cylinder, wherein the shield extends laterally substantially the entire distance between the outermost ends of the rods to protect substantially all of each rod over the entire range of steered positions.